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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant(s)

: HORN, Carina et al.

Serial No.

10/771,872

Filed

: 4 February 2004

Title

: FLUORIMETRIC DETERMINATION OF ANALYTES BY

AMINE-N-OXIDES AS REDOX INDICATORS

Docket No.

: WP 21394 US

Examiner

: SNAY, Jeffrey R.

Art Unit

: 1743

Confirm. No.

: 3760

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 10 January 2006.

Brian L. Smiler - Attorney

Reg. No. 46,458

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed 14 December 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction between allegedly distinct inventions identified by the Examiner as Group I (claims 1-11), said to be drawn to a fluorescence based assay and classified in class 436, subclass 172; and Group II (claim 12), said to be drawn to a reagent composition, classified in class 435, subclass 4.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to have the claims of Group I examined on the merits.

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Applicants have filed a complete response to the outstanding Office Action and respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS OPERATIONS, INC.

By <u><</u>

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